

NAVAJO TRAILS INITIATIVE

Trail Assessment Guidelines

Trails considered for adoption need to be assessed to determine their viability and value. The following criteria apply to assessing this type of trail. A checklist form is on the second page for field use. The sustainability criteria can be used as a maintenance assessment tool for all trails.

Sustainability. Is there *any* evidence of erosion? (Keep in mind that minor erosion can become major erosion with increased use and unusual weather events, which will become more common as global warming increases.) Signs of erosion include water “tracks” running down the trail, even small rivulets; lack of sediment, leaving the surface “gravelly;” cupping, or hollowed out trail.

Sustainability Solutions. Minor erosion issues may be addressed by diverting the water either before it hits the trail or where it hits the trail, so it will either miss the trail or cross it instead of running down it. Other minor erosion issues may be taken care of with a short reroute that stays within the trail corridor, usually a distance of 7 feet from the centerline. **Major erosion issues** may require significant reroutes. **Construction notes** should include a description of the difficulty and any construction challenges.

Aesthetic Values. Trails will be ranked 1, 2 or 3 based on aesthetics; the highest value is 1. Here’s a rough description of these categories:

1. Compelling vistas, rock formations and distance views, combined with unique/unusual features (rock formations, flora) close to the trail.
2. Interesting views, rock formations and some unique/unusual close-up features.
3. Very little visual “bang for the buck” over much of the trail; monotonous scenery, close to busy roads and built environment.

Potential Issues. Note and describe any possible arc sites or sensitive habitat. Also note if you are aware of any potential issues with neighbors and grazing leaseholders.

Trail Assessment Form

1. Sustainability

Does it have erosion issues? Yes No (If No, skip to Item 2, Aesthetics)

For each *eroded* section make a waypoint at the beginning and end and list:

Length _____ Grade _____ Side slope grade _____ Cupping depth _____

Can these issues be addressed by tread work or short (less than 50') reroutes? Yes No

If No:

Approximate length of the reroute: _____ Farthest distance from original trail: _____

Construction notes: _____

(Additional pages for erosion notes after this page; print as many as you may need)

2. Aesthetics

Category: 1 2 3

Description: _____

Other: Note and describe potential archeological, resource or social issues:

Supplemental Page Number _____ **Erosion Section Number** _____

Make a waypoint at the beginning and end and list:

Length _____ Grade _____ Side slope grade _____ Cupping depth _____

Can these issues be addressed by tread work or short (less than 50') reroutes? Yes No

If No:

Approximate length of the reroute: _____. Farthest distance from original trail: _____

Construction notes: _____

Erosion Section Number _____

Make a waypoint at the beginning and end and list:

Length _____ Grade _____ Side slope grade _____ Cupping depth _____

Can these issues be addressed by tread work or short (less than 50') reroutes? Yes No

If No:

Approximate length of the reroute: _____. Farthest distance from original trail: _____

Construction notes: _____

